

HUSBAND IS DEWITCHED SAYS DESERTED WIFE

Gelbert Abandons Faithful Woman Who Opened His Prison Door.

WED WITH ANOTHER.

Was Convicted of Holding Up Publisher with Gun to Get Pay Due.

WIFE'S LIFE THREATENED.

Menacing Letter She Attributes to Rival Whose "Spell" Won His Affection.

"My husband has been bewitched." That is the only explanation which Mrs. James H. Gelbert, of 1209 First avenue, can give for the strange disappearance ten days ago of her husband, whose liberation from the Blackwell's Island Penitentiary she had secured only three days before.

Gelbert was one of the book agents who held up the office of G. V. Blackburn & Co., of No. 114 Fifth avenue, on Oct. 14, so as to collect \$33 which they claimed was due them.

The two men were afterward arrested and sent to the penitentiary for three months each.

Mrs. Gelbert at once began efforts to secure the release of her husband, and succeeded in interesting many prominent persons through the distress of herself and her three little children.

Got Him Pardon.

She did not rest until Gelbert was pardoned by Gov. Higgins thirteen days ago after he had spent two months in prison. He remained at home three days after his liberation and then, so Mrs. Gelbert says, deserted her and to go away with another woman. She says she has no idea where he now is.

"That woman has placed my husband under a spell which has changed his nature," said Mrs. Gelbert. "I can in no other way account for his strange behavior. When he came home from the penitentiary he seemed touched by my ceaseless efforts in his behalf and was so devoted I hoped the happiness of other years was to return to me. Ten days ago he left the house after kissing me good-by, and at night he did not return."

Changed His Nature.

"She it was who changed my husband from a model of devotion to what he now is."

"It is a great change to leave a house with thirteen rooms and three servants to come to a place like this," said Mrs. Gelbert, who lives in a small, one-story rooming-house on First street.

"I did not know such misery in my girlhood. My father was a Potter, of Westmoreland County, Virginia. He was related to Bishop Potter, of New York. He was a farmer. In the olden days they would have called him a planter."

"For nine years after my marriage I was a supremely happy woman. No woman could have had a more knightly husband. He prospered in his business and we lived comfortably until five years ago, when he met that woman in Washington."

Comes of Good Family.

"My husband, too, comes of a good family of Missouri. There are two Congressmen among his relatives, and his father was related to the late United States Senator Vest."

"A few days after my husband left me I received a 'Black Hand' letter written in German. I had one of my neighbors decipher it for me. It commanded me to 'set my husband free' by securing a divorce. It also contained a warning that I would be killed in ten days if I refused to begin proceedings for divorce."

"It was not the first time I have been threatened. About a year ago two persons entered my flat. Both were dressed as women, but one was, I think, a man in disguise. One of them chloroformed me. When I came to my senses there were three detectives and six policemen in the room. They told me I had been found with my feet tied to the chandelier. The gas jet was turned on, but luckily we did not use gas and I escaped unharmed. The police had not been able to find the persons who were guilty of that attack."

WHY SHE WILDLY LOVED BUT WILL NOT WED

Gertrude Stringer Tells Why She Refused Many Offers of Marriage.

HOW SHE MET BARKER.

He Is Jealous, She Says, and Brings Suit for Child Out of Spite.

SHE NOW LOVES ANOTHER.

Wants Little Girl Placed in Convent Where Both Parents Can See Her.

"The reason I have refused the offers of marriage from other men than Mr. Barker," said Miss Adelaide Gertrude Stringer to an Evening World reporter to-day, "is my unwillingness to impose upon any man I love the necessity of supporting my child."

"So long as I am not married Mr. Barker is obliged to maintain her. I do not want him to contribute in any way toward my support. I expect to earn my own living on the stage, but as a beginner I fear I shall not be able to keep my child in the right way."

Miss Stringer is being sued by Charles Bell Barker, wealthy clubman, for the possession of their four-year-old daughter Adelaide. He admits the child is his and says he has paid its mother for its support, at first \$5,000 a year and more recently \$2,500. He says he tried to right the wrong he had done, and through love for the child had urged the mother to marry him, but she refused. She reports that he already had a wife and could not marry her.

The case will come up in court on Monday.

Amused at Barker.

"It is my wish that for the present, until I am able to take Queenie again, she be placed in the Convent of the Sacred Heart, where both her father and mother live. If the arrangement is made, she will be well cared for, I am confident," said Miss Stringer.

"Her father's feigned interest in her welfare is amusing to us, who know his sole reason for bringing this suit is his refusal to renew relations I once had with him. He asked me last week to go South with him, and I told him then, as I have a thousand times in the past year, that I no longer love him, and will no longer live with him."

"It was because I did not care for him that I arranged to give back half the \$5,000 allowance he had given me, keeping only \$2,500 for the maintenance of our child."

"Mr. Barker brought this suit because he knew of my love for another man, and is enraged by jealousy on that account."

Fond of Barker? Yes.

"I am still tremendously fond of Mr. Barker, but my feeling for him is that of an affectionate relative. The love I had for him was killed years ago. How it came about and how it died is a long story."

"I want it distinctly understood I never shall be anything but deeply grateful to Mr. Barker for all he has done for me. When I first met him I was in great distress and he offered me help in the quietest way a man could—freely, with no strings attached."

"I was a silly girl of seventeen when I ran away from my home in England and came to America to see the world and go on the stage."

"I landed here with very little money and found I was in the most dangerous situation a girl can find herself."

"I was an innocent little kid, just a little booby, and I was pretty. I found that a girl who really needs work and is pretty and attractive can often get a place only on one condition. I was frantic."

How She Met Barker.

"The boarding-house in which I was staying had just notified me that unless my bill was paid I must leave. It was then I met Mr. Barker, and I want to say that no one could have treated me more squarely than he did."

"You poor little girl," was what he said. "I'm awfully sorry for you. I wish I were a free man, I would marry you. I have a wife, but I hope to get a divorce from her. I can't marry you on the spot, but I can help you."

"The next morning I received a check from him with a kind little cheery note wishing me good luck."

"Then Mr. Barker invited a friend, an elderly woman I knew, and myself to visit him at his country home at Central Valley."

"It was Thanksgiving time, I remember, and the season seemed to me peculiarly propitious."

"We were visitors in that lovely country home for six weeks. All that time I had no idea of the kindness and solicitude with which Mr. Barker treated me. All that time it was as a poor tired out girl, resting in his house, and he seemed to consider me. My friend and I had our separate apartments, and never once did he make any advances beyond that of generous friendship."

"The enjoyment that beautiful house

CLUBMAN BARKER AND THE MOTHER OF HIS CHILD, WHO WOULD NOT MARRY HIM.



Miss Adelaide Stringer and "Queenie"

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"After six weeks there Mr. Barker made me a perfectly square proposition. He said, 'I love you, little girl, but I can't marry you until I'm able to get a divorce from my wife. But until I am able to make you my legal wife with you live with me. Don't do it blindly, little girl. You must have your eyes open, realizing all that it means.'"

"He was so straightforward with me and had treated me so squarely that I couldn't help loving him."

"He was the first man I had met since I left England who had treated me with respect."

"I 'wall I accepted his offer. I went back to New York for a day or so just to get my things. Then I returned to him, and we lived a perfectly happy life for five years. I adored him. There could never have been a happier pair."

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CHARLES B. BARKER.

and my mother and sister accompanied us on a tour of the Continent. I dared not breathe that Mr. Barker was not my husband. My people grew tremendously fond of him and were happy over my excellent choice. Had they but known! They learned not long after."

"When we returned to England my mother came with me. It was in Central Valley that events came about which ended my life as I knew it."

"Mr. Barker and Miss Stringer continued to live together until after their return from abroad. Mr. Barker fell ill with pneumonia. His supposed dying condition alarmed Mrs. Eva Barker, the legal wife and her friends. They knew the husband's will decided his entire estate to Miss Stringer, except 'Eva Barker's photograph in a frame.'"

"Then Mrs. Barker began a long series of persecutions with her friends," said Miss Stringer. "She forced me to get Mr. Barker to change his will. Their actions were outrageous and were particularly trying to me in my condition. It was just before the birth of our child."

"When Mr. Barker rallied he seemed unable to appreciate the trouble I had undergone for his sake. It was this apparent callousness to what I had endured for him that killed my love for him."

Disappointed by Rialto.

"The Rialto didn't have much interest for the Dakota men because they didn't see the real long-haired variety they came from the west. When they landed at Forty-second street and were told about the choicest watering places for old time crooks they said they'd like to have a go at some of them."

"Fifth avenue and the homes of the millionaires, who in such hotels made them sit up and take notice. The St. Regis caught the fancy of Ed Cessna, who is the duke of the outfit. He and on a long high machine with big pearl buttons. 'I'll just put in a day at that claim before I go back,' he said. 'Looks homelike, like the shack on the ranch. How many head will that hotel hold?'"

"The Whitney home caught the fancy of Henry Roberts, the son of D. P. de Henry Roberts, who in such hotels made them sit up and take notice. The St. Regis caught the fancy of Ed Cessna, who is the duke of the outfit. He and on a long high machine with big pearl buttons. 'I'll just put in a day at that claim before I go back,' he said. 'Looks homelike, like the shack on the ranch. How many head will that hotel hold?'"

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PIEST WEDS GIRL WHO RAN AWAY WITH HIM

Unfrosted Father Dobinac, Cultured Austrian, Works as Day Laborer.

COULDN'T GIVE UP GIRL.

After Eloping, Young Woman's Father Threatens to Kill Him, He Says.

CHASES HIM TO CHICAGO.

Arrested for Abduction, Then Freed, Couple Brought Together by Lawyer and Are Wed.

The romance that led to the arrest and unfrocking of the Rev. Father Evan Dobinac, a scholarly young Austrian priest, culminated to-day in the civil marriage of the man to Anna Fratter, a beautiful young countrywoman of the former clergyman. She is eighteen years old. The couple began life without a dollar, and the husband, who distinguished himself in the foremost theological universities of Europe, has sought employment as a day laborer until he can find other work to do.

Evan Dobinac was born in the Subanian Province, Austria, and his parents decided that he should enter the priesthood. He soon distinguished himself and at a very early age he was appointed to an important parish and acquitted himself so well that when he was thirty he was selected to come to America and take charge of the work of establishing churches for his countrymen here.

He arrived in New York two years ago and went to live with friends at No. 47 West Forty-seventh street. Anna Fratter lived with her parents two blocks away at No. 48 Ninth avenue. The girl's parents had also come to America from the Subanian Province, but their native villages were far removed. They met by accident on the street and they both say that as soon as their eyes met they recognized that destiny had brought them together.

The priest had been working diligently in collecting money and obtaining support for the founding of an Austrian Roman Catholic Church in this city. He had been encouraged in his work by Archbishop Farley, and carried credentials from two cardinals, whom he had impressed with his zeal before coming to the United States. Archbishop Farley declared after the priest had disgraced the cloth by eloping, that a great future awaited the young man who had stuck to his life in the priest's struggle for a few months to crush his love, but in vain. "Time and again when the young people met they decided to divide their walks and respect the tenets of the church."

The priest went so far as to give up his work in New York and move to Chicago. In about a month he returned to this city. Clandestine meetings with the girl followed.

When her father heard of it he visited the priest and told him that he would kill him on sight if he persisted in his attentions. This was about a year ago. The girl was detained at her home almost a prisoner. She admitted she loved the priest. Tears, arguments, persuasion had no influence upon her. She consented, however, to let her father see a nunery if she never could see her lover again.

Girl Elopes with Priest.

Then the priest sent a message to her asking her to elope with him, and one night she slipped out from the house, met him and they journeyed to Chicago together. The young woman's father followed in a swift pursuit and had the priest arrested. The couple were brought back to New York and abduction proceedings began against the man. He was locked up for three days in the West Side Court and then released through the influence of friends, was unchained and banished from the city.

Since then the man has lived like a recluse in the Hungarian colony. He obtained a bare living by translating letters and documents. A few days ago Leo Schack, a member of the law firm of Sample & Lebedoff, of No. 50 Wall street, brought the couple together and they were married in the lawyer's office at No. 50 East Sixty-eighth street. They are now living at No. 415 East Sixty-ninth street.

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